

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously presented) A fitment for a container having a top end and a first wall associated with the top end and an opening extending through the thickness of the first wall, comprising:

a circumferential flange member adapted to engage the top wall of the container in circumscribing relationship to the opening through the top wall for mounting of the fitment to the container,

a second wall upstanding from said flange member and defining a conduit having an inner wall and entrance and exit ends through which contents of the container may be discharged,

at least said exit end of said conduit having a substantially ellipsoidal planar cross-sectional geometry having at least one major portion and at least one minor portion,

said minor portion being disposed vertically above said major portion when said fitment is affixed to the first wall of the container and the container is oriented in a direction for discharge of the contents of the container through said opening and substantially simultaneous ingress of ambient air into the container through said minor portion of said fitment,

a tear away membrane disposed across said conduit at a location fully within said conduit and spaced apart from said first wall associated with the top end of the container and having a perimeter releasably joined to said inner wall of said conduit whereby said membrane closes said conduit, and including pull ring means affixed to said tear away membrane thereby providing for localization of an initial tear away force applied through said pull ring.

Claim 2. (Previously presented) The fitment of Claim 1 wherein said cross-sectional geometry of at least said exit end of said conduit has an aspect ratio of less than one.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The fitment of Claim 1 wherein said container and said fitment each includes a longitudinal centerplane and said centerplanes are coincident when said fitment is affixed to the top end of said container.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The fitment of Claim 1 and including a cap member integrally formed in hinged relationship with said wall defining said conduit.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The fitment of Claim 4 wherein said cap member includes first and second annular projections extending from a surface thereof, said projections being spaced apart from one another to define therebetween a void annular space, said annular space having a geometry substantially like said ellipsoidal cross-second geometry of said conduit and adapted to receive therein an outboard rim of said second wall to thereby releasably close and seal said conduit against the passage of the contents of said container therethrough.

Claims 6-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The fitment of Claim 1 wherein said circumferential flange is physically disposed internally of said container and affixed to the inner surface of the first wall associated with the top end of the container and said second wall extends from the circumferential margin of said opening outwardly of said opening to define said conduit.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The fitment of Claim 19 wherein said second wall upstanding from said circumferential flange member projects from said circumferential flange through said opening defined through the first wall associated with the top end of the container.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The fitment of Claim 19 wherein said membrane is wholly disposed within said conduit and at a location within said conduit spaced apart from said opening.